Radio Ham Links State, Far Reaches

A Brookfield man's short wave radio hobby has provided a welcome link between Wisconsin and such places as Antarctica and the far reaches of an arctic iceflow.

William Brossmann, 4545 Meadow View W., uses a technique called a phone patch to allow short wave conversations to be transferred to a phone connection. In this way people like Joseph Witchpalek, who is with a scientific expedition on an arctic iceflow, Drift Station Bravo, 200 miles north of Point Barrow, Alaska, can talk directly to his parents in Algoma.

Contacted UW Group

Until the University of Wisconsin geophysical expeditions left Antarctica recently, Brossmann handled many phone patches to expedition members' wives, families, and sweethearts in this area.

At present, he is "patching" calls on a weekly basis from Catholic priests in Nicaragua to Milwaukee priests at St. Benedict the Moor Catholic church, 924 W. State st.

On a monthly basis he patches calls from missionaries in Honduras to the Revs. Hilton Grams, of the Trinity Evangelical and Reformed church, Brookfield, and Eugene Schneider of the St. Paul Evangelical and Reformed church, Menomonee Falls.

Located One Man

In recent months, he has patched calls to places as widely separated as Greenland, Ecuador and Midway island.

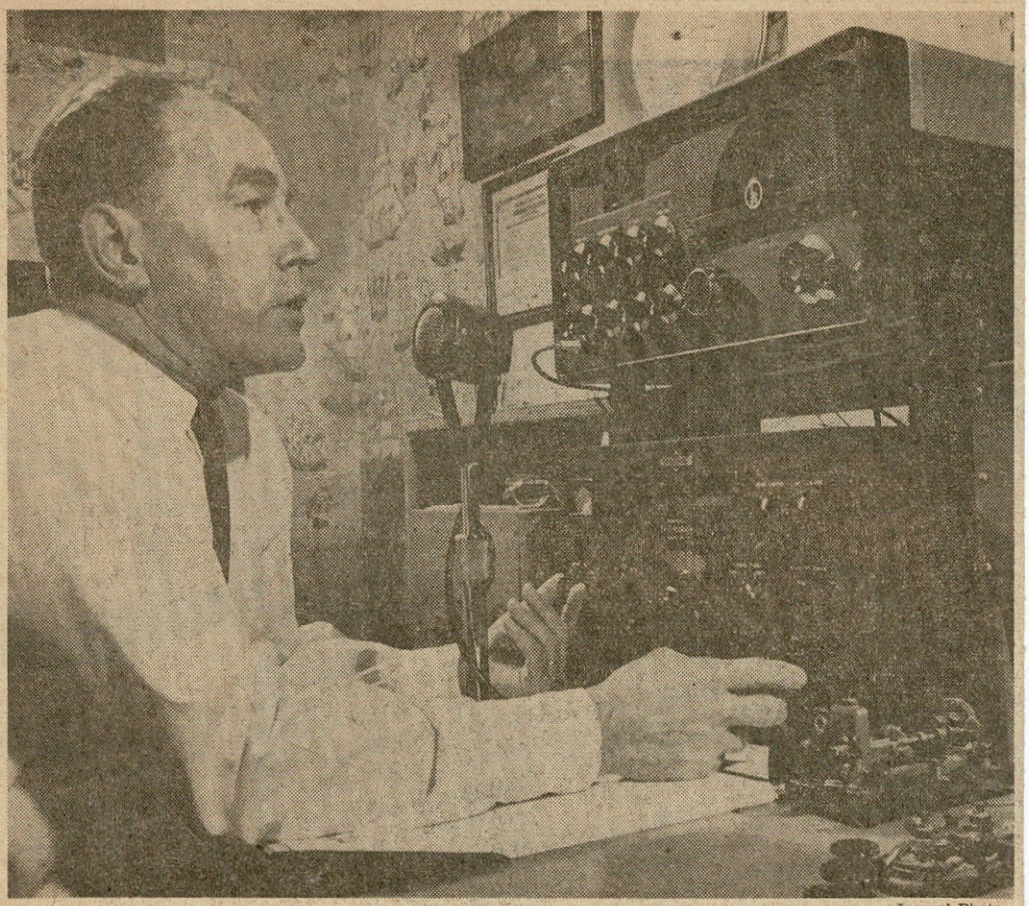
He has even acted as a missing persons bureau. Recently a Milwaukee mother, Mrs. Marshal L. Wilcox, 6301 Washington circle, became concerned when she had not received word from her son, David Link, in Antarctica with a scientific expedition. She asked Brossmann to try and locate him.

All Brossmann knew was that Link was somewhere near Grahamland in Antarctica. He located Link through a chance radio connection with a British expedition in the area. Although Brossmann still has not been able to patch a call between Link and his mother, Mrs. Wilcox knows that her son is safe and on his way home.

Brossmann, purchasing agent for the Koehring Co., began his short wave hobby in 1927. He has devoted his time solely to phone patches in recent years.

Throughout the years, Brossmann has made many friends through his radio activities.

Brossmann used to like to contact as many spots in the world as he could, but he now leaves this continent hopping to his son, William jr., 17, also a registered "ham."



—Journal Photo

A Brookfield ham radio operator, William Brossmann, operated his equipment at his home, 4545 Meadow View W. He provides Wisconsin residents far from home with a short wave radio-phone linke directly to their families.